

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-17. (canceled)

18. (Previously presented) A method of coating a stent, comprising:
positioning a stent on a mounting assembly, wherein a section of the mounting assembly includes a porous surface; and
applying a coating composition to the stent, wherein the pores are configured to receive at least some of the coating composition applied to the stent that overflows from the stent during the application of the coating composition, wherein the mounting assembly includes a first member to make contact with a first end of the stent, and a second member to make contact with a second end of the stent, and wherein the pores are located on at least a region of a surface of the first or second member.

19. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18, additionally comprising at least partially expanding the stent prior to applying the coating composition.

20. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein the coating composition includes a solvent, a polymer dissolved in the solvent, and optionally a therapeutic substance.

21. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18, additionally comprising rotating the stent about a longitudinal axis of the stent as the coating composition is applied to the stent.

22. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18, additionally comprising moving the stent in a linear direction along a longitudinal axis of the stent as the coating composition is applied to the stent.

23. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein applying the coating composition comprises spraying the coating composition onto the stent.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein the mounting assembly further includes a third member extending within the stent and securing the first member to the second member.

26. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the third member does not make contact with an inner surface of the stent.

27. (Previously presented) A method of coating a stent, comprising:
positioning a stent on a mounting assembly, wherein a section of the mounting assembly includes a porous surface; and

applying a coating composition to the stent, wherein the pores are configured to receive at least some of the coating composition applied to the stent that overflows from the stent during the application of the coating composition, wherein the pores have an open end and a closed end so as to provide a closed pore system on the surface of the mounting assembly.

28. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein the pores are interconnected so as to provide an open pore system on the mounting assembly.

29. (Previously presented) A method of coating a stent, comprising:
positioning a stent on a support member, wherein the support member includes an absorbing layer disposed on a surface of the support member; and
applying a coating composition to the stent, wherein the absorbing layer is capable of at least partially absorbing some of the coating composition that comes into contact with the absorbing layer during the application of the coating composition, wherein the absorbing layer is in contact with an end of the stent during the application of the coating composition.

30. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 29, wherein the coating composition includes a solvent, a polymer dissolved in the solvent, and optionally a therapeutic substance.

31. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 29, additionally comprising rotating the stent about a longitudinal axis of the stent as the coating composition is applied to the stent.

32. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 29, additionally comprising moving the stent in a linear direction along a longitudinal axis of the stent as the coating composition is applied to the stent.

33. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 29, wherein applying the coating composition comprises spraying the coating composition onto the stent.

34. (Previously presented) A method of coating a stent, comprising:
positioning a stent on a support member, wherein the support member includes an absorbent material; and

applying a coating composition to the stent, wherein the support member is capable of at least partially absorbing some of the coating composition that comes into contact with the support member during the application of the coating composition, wherein the absorbing material is in contact with an end of the stent during the application of the coating composition.

35. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 34, wherein the coating composition includes a solvent, a polymer dissolved in the solvent, and optionally a therapeutic substance.

36. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 34, additionally comprising rotating the stent about a longitudinal axis of the stent as the coating composition is applied to the stent.

37. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 34, additionally comprising moving the stent in a linear direction along a longitudinal axis of the stent as the coating composition is applied to the stent.

38. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 34, wherein applying the coating composition comprises spraying the coating composition onto the stent.

39. (Previously presented) A method of coating a stent, comprising:
positioning a first end of a stent to make contact with a first member of a mounting assembly;

positioning a second end of the stent to make contact with a second member of the mounting assembly; and

applying a coating composition to the stent, wherein a section of the first or second member includes a porous surface capable of receiving some of the coating composition during the application of the coating composition.

40. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein the first or second member is made from a metallic material.

41. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 40, wherein the metallic material is selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, titanium, tantalum, niobium, zirconium, hafnium, and cobalt chromium alloys.

42. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein the first or second member is made from a polymeric material.

43. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 42, wherein the polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of regenerated cellulose, cellulose acetate, polyacetal, polyetheretherketone, polyesters, highly hydrolyzed polyvinyl alcohol, nylon, polyphenylenesulfide, polyethylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polypropylene, and combinations thereof.

44. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein the first or second member is made from a ceramic material.

45. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 44, wherein the ceramic material is selected from the group consisting of zirconia, silica, glass, sintered calcium phosphates, calcium sulfate, and titanium dioxide.

46. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein the first and second members have inwardly tapered ends that penetrate at least partially in the first and second ends of the stent.

47. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein the mounting assembly additionally comprises a third member extending within the stent and securing the first member to the second member.

48. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 47, wherein an outer surface of the third member does not make contact with an inner surface of the stent.

49. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein the coating composition includes a solvent, a polymer dissolved in the solvent, and optionally a therapeutic substance.

50. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, additionally comprising rotating the stent about a longitudinal axis of the stent as the coating composition is applied to the stent.

51. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, additionally comprising moving the stent in a linear direction along a longitudinal axis of the stent as the coating composition is applied to the stent.

52. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein applying the coating composition comprises spraying the coating composition onto the stent.

53. (Previously presented) A method of coating a stent, comprising:
positioning a first end of a stent so that the first end is supported by a first member of a mounting assembly;
positioning a second end of the stent so that the second end is supported by a second member of the mounting assembly; and

applying a coating composition to the stent, wherein the first or second member includes cavities capable of receiving and containing at least some of the excess coating composition applied to the stent during the application of the coating composition.

54. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 53, wherein the mounting assembly additionally includes a third member extending within the stent and securing the first member to the second member, the method further comprising adjusting the distance between the first member and the second member by inserting the third member deeper into the first member or the second member.

55. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 53, wherein the coating composition includes a solvent, a polymer dissolved in the solvent, and optionally a therapeutic substance.

56. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 53, additionally comprising rotating the stent about a longitudinal axis of the stent as the coating composition is applied to the stent.

57. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 53, additionally comprising moving the stent in a linear direction along a longitudinal axis of the stent as the coating composition is applied to the stent.

58. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 53, wherein applying the coating composition comprises spraying the coating composition onto the stent.

59. (Previously presented) A method of coating a stent, comprising:
positioning a first end of a stent so that the first end is supported by a first member of a mounting assembly;
positioning a second end of the stent so that the second end is supported by a second member of the mounting assembly; and
applying a coating composition to the stent, wherein the first or second member includes a layer disposed on a surface of the first or second member, wherein the layer absorbs at least some of the coating composition that comes into contact with the layer during the application of the coating composition.

60. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 59, wherein the coating composition includes a solvent, a polymer dissolved in the solvent, and optionally a therapeutic substance.

61. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 59, additionally comprising rotating the stent about a longitudinal axis of the stent as the coating composition is applied to the stent.

62. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 59, additionally comprising moving the stent in a linear direction along a longitudinal axis of the stent as the coating composition is applied to the stent.

63. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 59, wherein applying the coating composition comprises spraying the coating composition onto the stent.

64. (Canceled).

65. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 67 Claim 64, wherein the third member does not contact an inner surface of the stent.

66. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 67 Claim 64, wherein the coating composition includes a solvent, a polymer dissolved in the solvent, and optionally a therapeutic substance.

67. (Currently amended) A method of coating a stent, The method of Claim 64, comprising:

positioning a stent on a mounting assembly, the mounting assembly comprising a first member to support a first end of a stent, a second member to support a second of the stent, and a third member extending through the stent and connecting the first member to the second member;

applying a coating composition to the stent, wherein a surface of the third member includes pores that receives a portion of the coating composition that comes in contact with the surface of the third member during the application of the coating composition; and

additionally comprising rotating the stent about a longitudinal axis of the stent as the coating composition is applied to the stent.

68. (Currently amended) A method of coating a stent, The method of Claim 64, comprising:

positioning a stent on a mounting assembly, the mounting assembly comprising a first member to support a first end of a stent, a second member to support a second of the stent, and a third member extending through the stent and connecting the first member to the second member;

applying a coating composition to the stent, wherein a surface of the third member includes pores that receives a portion of the coating composition that comes in contact with the surface of the third member during the application of the coating composition; and

additionally comprising moving the stent in a linear direction along a longitudinal axis of the stent as the coating composition is applied to the stent.

69. (Currently amended) A method of coating a stent, The method of Claim 64, comprising:

positioning a stent on a mounting assembly, the mounting assembly comprising a first member to support a first end of a stent, a second member to support a second of the stent, and a third member extending through the stent and connecting the first member to the second member; and

applying a coating composition to the stent, wherein a surface of the third member includes pores that receives a portion of the coating composition that comes in contact with the surface of the third member during the application of the coating composition; and

wherein applying the coating composition comprises spraying the coating composition onto the stent.

70. (Currently amended) A method of coating a stent, comprising:

positioning a stent on a mounting assembly including the step of pinching the stent between a first member and a second member of the mounting assembly, the mounting assembly further including comprising a first member to support a first end of a stent, a second member to

support a second of the stent, and a third member extending through the stent and connecting the first member to the second member; and

applying a coating composition to the stent, wherein the third member includes an absorbing layer or is made from an absorbent material that at least partially absorbs some of the coating composition that comes in contact with the third member during the application of the coating composition.

71. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 70, wherein the third member does not contact an inner surface of the stent.

72. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 70, wherein the coating composition includes a solvent, a polymer dissolved in the solvent, and optionally a therapeutic substance.

73. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 70, additionally comprising rotating the stent about a longitudinal axis of the stent as the coating composition is applied to the stent.

74. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 70, additionally comprising moving the stent in a linear direction along a longitudinal axis of the stent as the coating composition is applied to the stent.

75. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 70, wherein applying the coating composition comprises spraying the coating composition onto the stent.

76. (Previously presented) A method of coating a stent, comprising:

positioning a stent on a support member, the member including a first member for making contact with a first end of the stent and a second member for making contact with a second end of the stent; and

applying a coating composition to the stent, wherein the first or second member is made from an absorbent material capable of at least partially absorbing at least some of the coating composition that comes into contact with the first or second member during the application of the coating composition.

77. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 76, wherein the coating composition includes a solvent, a polymer dissolved in the solvent, and optionally a therapeutic substance.

78. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 76, additionally comprising rotating the stent about a longitudinal axis of the stent as the coating composition is applied to the stent.

79. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 76, additionally comprising moving the stent in a linear direction along a longitudinal axis of the stent as the coating composition is applied to the stent.

80. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 76, wherein applying the coating composition comprises spraying the coating composition onto the stent.

81. (New) The method of Claim 68 wherein the third member does not contact an inner surface of the stent.

82. (New) The method of Claim 68 wherein the coating composition includes a solvent, a polymer dissolved in the solvent, and optionally a therapeutic substance.

83. (New) The method of Claim 69 wherein the third member does not contact an inner surface of the stent.

84. (New) The method of Claim 69 wherein the coating composition includes a solvent, a polymer dissolved in the solvent, and optionally a therapeutic substance.